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CIA Hushes Facts On U-2 Pilot's Wife

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Washington, April 23—The Central Intelligence Agency is apparently attempting to cloak in secrecy the facts concerning the mysterious illness of Mrs. Francis Gary Powers, wife of the U-2 pilot who recently returned from Russia.

Mrs. Powers, 27, was hospitalized here Friday. The first report from Washington police said she had taken 28 capsules of nembutal, a barbiturate. Shortly afterward, Mrs. Powers' physician at Georgetown Hospital, Dr. George Schreiner, said "we have no factual data bearing out the police report."

Records Barred

The patrolman who investigated the case insisted, however, that he had taken his information from an official medical report prepared several hours after Mrs. Powers was admitted.

When police officials went later to examine the report, they were told by hospital directors that they could not see Mrs. Powers' records.

The directors admitted, when pressed, that a CIA agent had asked them to bar any access to the data on Mrs. Powers.

Found Unconstitutional

The hospital said furthermore that ~~the doctors~~ could not talk to Mrs. Powers, although Schreiner said "he had no objections on medical grounds. The doctor disclosed that he, too, had received word from CIA, ~~but not directly~~," to disclose no information on the case.

Mrs. Powers fell ill about 3 a.m. Friday in the plush apartment she shares with her husband in nearby Alexandria. Powers phoned police to send an ambulance.

Herbert Sweeney, a member of the ambulance team, said he

found Mrs. Powers lying unconscious in her pajamas on the living room floor. Powers was with her.

Sweeney said he saw no sign of sleeping pills and that Powers made no mention of them. The pilot arrived at the hospital in a police car a few minutes after his wife, Sweeney said.

Won't Say Why

Alexandria Police Chief Russell Hawes said he had closed the records of the incident to public scrutiny at the request of Lt. Col. Paul F. Gaynor, a CIA security officer.

Gaynor, by telephone, acknowledged that the CIA was active in the case but he declined to say why. "Ask Powers," he said. But Powers could not be reached.

Schreiner, during the weekend, declined to give out any information about Mrs. Powers' diagnosis. He said only that she was treated for a stomach ailment and that she is recovering satisfactorily.

He said she is now ambulatory and is well enough to talk but that he had not asked her what might have caused her distress.

Spoiled Oysters

Late last night, both of Powers' sisters who live in Washington suburbs, said their brother had just told them that his wife apparently had eaten some spoiled oysters that were in their refrigerator.

Both women, Mrs. Janice Melvin and Mrs. Jessica Hillman, denied reports that the couple had not been getting along well lately. Both said they had entertained the couple during the week and found them light-hearted and gaily making plans for celebrating easter together.

Mrs. Melvin said Mrs. Powers might have been run down from the constant round of parties the couple had been attending in celebration of his release. She said Mrs. Powers also suffered from numerous allergies.